

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Murmansk Oblast)

DATE DISTR 28 Feb. 1952

SUBJECT Monchegorsk Airfield

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1. An airfield was about 20 km north-northeast of the railroad station of Monchegorsk (63°58'N/35°05'E), Murmansk Oblast, just east of the single-track railroad line from Monchegorsk to Olenya (63°00'N/33°19'E). The surroundings were hilly or mountainous.
2. Soviet civilians said that the field served as a base for Soviet combat aircraft during the last year of the war and that no flying has been conducted there since the war. In the summer of 1946, [redacted] the field was not occupied. The landing field was plowed in the summer of 1947 and planted with oats. Oats were planted every year until June 1949, when the period of observation ended. The former landing field measured about 3 km from north to south and about 2 km from east to west. No buildings were seen.
3. There was little flying activity. Small single-engine low-wing monoplanes were seen at irregular intervals approaching from the north and departing in the same direction.
4. During the period of observation, terrain just northeast of the airfield was being cleared of woods. No grading or other work was being done in the cleared area which consisted of more than 10 hectares. Soviet workers said that a new nationalized farm was to be established in the cleared area. No construction was observed.

* [redacted] Comment. For location sketch of airfield, see Annex. The information contradicts a previous report according to which the airfield near Monchegorsk has been continually improved since 1948. [redacted] The previous report contained insufficient location data and did not indicate whether another airfield was under construction in addition to the former wartime field. If the information on the construction of a second airfield is correct, the statement in the present report may be true that the field located at the northern shore of the lake and east of the railroad line leading to Olenya was abandoned. The aircraft observed may have been stationed at the airfields near Olenya, one of which was occupied by a fighter regiment in August 1949.

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Legend:

1. Former airfield.
2. Area being cleared of woods.
3. Single-track railroad line to Olenya.
4. Buildings of a nationalized estate.
5. Barracks installations.
6. Monchegorsk railroad station.
7. PW Camp No 7844/1
8. Residential housing project.
9. PW Camp No 7844/2, known as mountain camp.
10. Nickel plant and other industrial installations.
11. Nickel mine buildings.
12. Power plant.

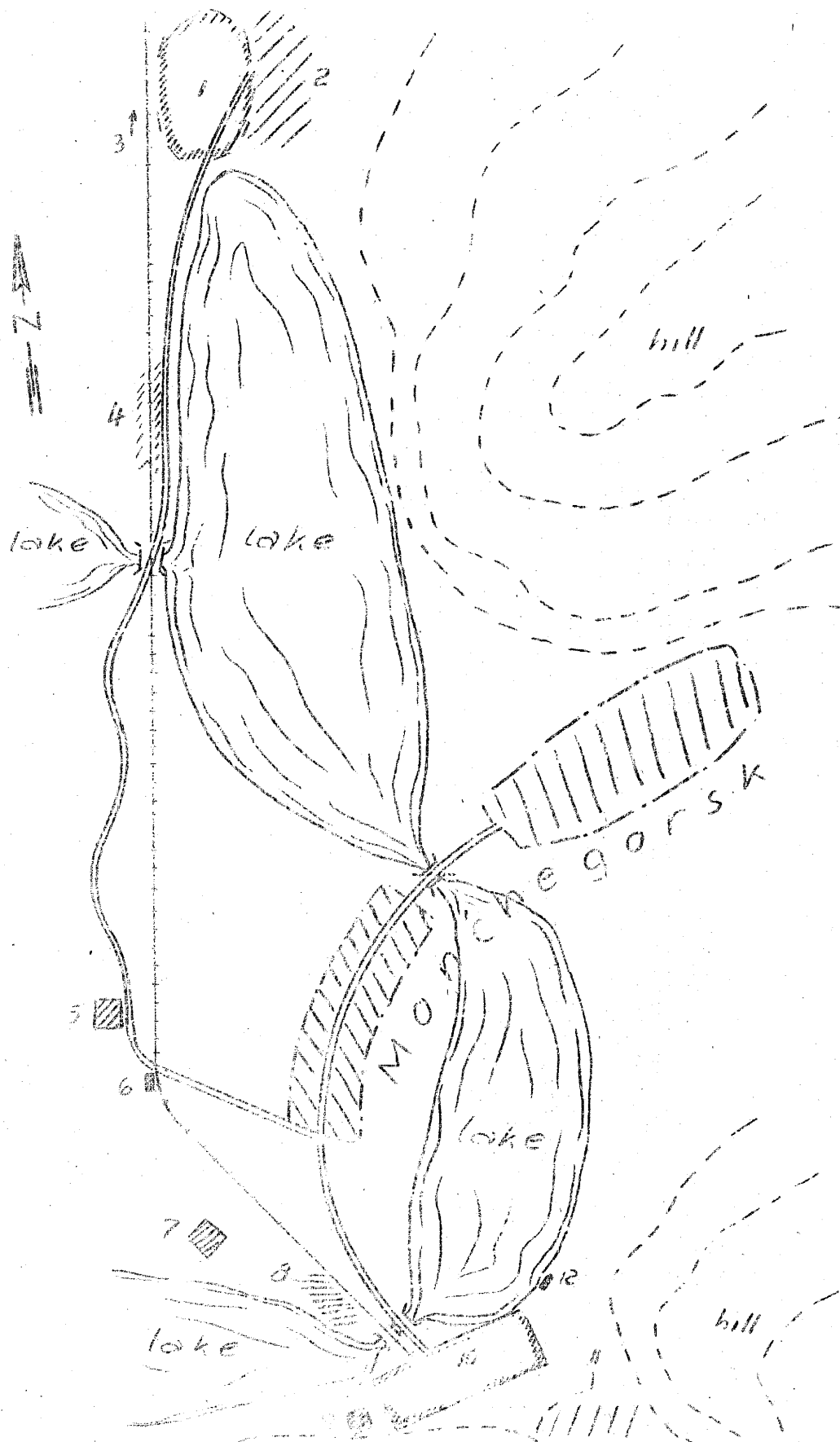
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